



# NORTHEAST IDAHO

BONNEVILLE, BUTTE, CLARK, CUSTER, FREMONT, JEFFERSON, LEMHI, MADISON, & TETON COUNTIES

## EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate for the Bonneville Labor Market Area (LMA) in March dropped one-tenth of a percentage point from the previous month to 4.0 percent. Increases in *Construction*, *Retail Trade*, and *Services* were able to help *Total Employment* grow after layoffs were experienced in the preceding fall and winter months. The decrease resulted from drops in the unemployment rates of Bingham (4.5 percent), Butte (3.4 percent), and Jefferson (4.1 percent) Counties as Bonneville County remained constant at 3.7 percent.

A year-over-year comparison shows an unchanged unemployment rate as both Bingham and Butte Counties decreased in their unemployment rate, but Bonneville and Jefferson Counties each increased one-tenth of a percentage point. These counties are still recovering from the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL) layoffs that only had a slight impact on the LMA as other expansions and entrants offset the larger potential impact. Idaho Falls, the largest city in the LMA, remained unchanged over the month at 3.7 percent, but increased one-tenth of a percentage point from March 2001.

Several of the counties in Northeast Idaho that are not part of the LMA saw monthly decreases. Clark County decreased 1.5 percentage points, the most of any county. Clark County still largely depends on agricultural activity, and land and crop preparation helped employment after a tough winter. Custer, Fremont, and Lemhi Counties also decreased in their unemployment rates. A year-over-year comparison shows that these four counties also decreased from March 2001, with Custer County decreasing 1.9 percentage points and Fremont and Lemhi Counties each decreasing over 1.0 percentage point. These decreases are a result of concentrated interest in economic development.

Madison County remained constant at the lowest unemployment rate in the state, 1.9 percent. However, it showed a decrease from March 2001 of five-tenths

Northeast Idaho Table 1: Labor Force & Employment  
Bonneville, Bingham, Butte, & Jefferson counties

	March 2002*	Feb 2002	March 2001	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<b>Seasonally Adjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	81,570	81,540	81,180	0.0	0.5
Unemployment	3,240	3,330	3,230	-2.7	0.3
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.0	4.1	4.0		
Total Employment	78,330	78,210	77,960	0.2	0.5
<b>Unadjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	80,520	80,170	80,160	0.4	0.4
Unemployment	3,420	3,920	3,460	-12.8	-1.2
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.2	4.9	4.3		
Total Employment	77,110	76,250	76,700	1.1	0.5
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**</b>					
<b>Goods-Producing Industries</b>	8,760	8,530	8,850	2.7	-1.0
Mining & Construction	3,860	3,600	3,530	7.2	9.3
Manufacturing	4,900	4,930	5,320	-0.6	-7.9
Food Processing	2,370	2,460	2,930	-3.7	-19.1
Ind. & Com. Mach. & Computer Equip.	530	500	460	6.0	15.2
All Other Manufacturing	2,000	1,970	1,930	1.5	3.6
<b>Service-Producing Industries</b>	51,980	51,450	52,660	1.0	-1.3
Transportation, Comm., & Utilities	2,310	2,290	2,340	0.9	-1.3
Wholesale Trade	5,340	5,270	5,810	1.3	-8.1
Retail Trade	11,080	10,950	10,910	1.2	1.6
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	1,910	1,890	1,850	1.1	3.2
Services	20,680	20,480	20,930	1.0	-1.2
Government Administration	5,070	5,020	5,250	1.0	-3.4
Government Education	5,590	5,550	5,570	0.7	0.4
*Preliminary Estimate					
**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month					

of a percentage point. Much economic activity is taking place in Rexburg as the business park is attracting local and new employers and Brigham Young University-Idaho (BYU-I) continues to grow. Developers, university leaders, and city officials are working closely together to encourage organized growth in the town since the announcement of the two-year Ricks College conversion to the four-year BYU-I. Teton County increased one-tenth of a percentage point over the month but increased 1.2 percentage points from March 2001. Teton County is largely dependent on tourism that was somewhat affected by the national economic slump and September 2001 terrorist attacks.

*Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* increased by 760 over the month. Increases in the *Goods-Producing Industries* occurred in *Mining* and *Construction* by 260 jobs as the weather began to allow some external activity. Losses in *Manufacturing* were slight (30 jobs) as *Food Processing* was somewhat affected by reduced activity in some fresh-pack plants as some farmers try to hold produce in storage for delivery later in the season. *Service-Producing Industries* showed a gain of 530 jobs over the month. Although all industries increased, *Services* (*Business Services*) and *Retail Trade* (*Eating & Drinking Establishments*) showed the larger increase at 200 and 130 jobs, respectively. Both of these industrial segments see increases as the snow starts to melt and all industries are in operation.

A year-over-year comparison showed almost the opposite results as *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* decreased 770 jobs with both *Goods-Producing* and *Service-Producing Industries* showing decreases. Larger decreases were seen in *Manufacturing (Food Processing)*, and *Services (Engineering & Management)*. The *Food Processing* segment has been showing a loss for some time as automation of the equipment and fluctuations in the supply and demand of produce have been factors over the past several years. Layoffs at the INEEL caused the majority of the decrease in *Services* as a decrease of 500 jobs in the *Engineering & Management* was seen from March 2001. The full impact of these losses was not witnessed because of year-over-year gains in several other industrial segments including *Health Services*, *Social Services*, *Auto Repair & Gas Stations*, and *Business Services*.

A year-over-year increase in *Construction* is promising along with an increase in *Retail Trade*. *Construction* has been showing a steady increase for several years as lower interest rates and programs for first time buyers is enticing, and these changes have caused a chain reaction in buying and selling. Of course, developers are taking advantage of the opportunity by creating new subdivisions in Bingham, Bonneville, and Jefferson Counties.

## SPECIAL TOPIC

### 2001 Population Estimates

Estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau show that the 2001 population for the LMA grew by 2,265 from the official 2000 count (see Northeast Table 2 below). It should be noted that net migration in the table is the sum of net domestic migration and net international migration. The LMA showed a decrease in net domestic migration of 108 but an increase in net international migration of 427. Births exceeded deaths by 1,499. Northeast Idaho grew in population by 1,647. Of that, net domestic migration showed a decrease of 756 while net international migration showed an increase of 394; bringing about a decrease in total net migration of 362. The Northeast Idaho area showed that births exceeded deaths by 1,654.

Northeast Table 2: County Population Estimates & Demographic Data - July 1, 2001						
County	4/1/2000 Population	7/1/2000 Population	7/1/2001 Population	Net Migration	Births	Deaths
Bingham	41,735	41,815	42,335	97	720	285
Bonneville	82,522	82,859	83,807	145	1,390	559
Butte	2,899	2,896	2,856	-50	43	34
Jefferson	19,155	19,233	19,578	127	337	113
<b>Bonneville LMA*</b>	<b>146,311</b>	<b>146,803</b>	<b>148,576</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>2,490</b>	<b>991</b>
Clark	1,022	1,027	971	-68	20	10
Custer	4,342	4,338	4,292	-55	48	39
Fremont	11,819	11,789	11,822	-95	212	85
Lemhi	7,806	7,744	7,606	-110	70	98
Madison	27,467	27,423	27,327	-499	490	94
Teton	5,999	6,095	6,419	243	110	34
<b>Northeast Total**</b>	<b>163,031</b>	<b>163,404</b>	<b>164,678</b>	<b>-362</b>	<b>2,720</b>	<b>1,066</b>

\*Includes Bingham, Bonneville, Butte and Jefferson Counties

\*\*Includes Bonneville, Butte, Jefferson, Clark, Custer, Fremont, Lemhi, Madison, and Teton Counties

Source: Population Estimates Branch, U.S. Census Bureau, April 29, 2001

Several counties were noted for increases. Bonneville added the most from the ten counties, at 1,285. Of that, 162 were net international migration compared to a loss in net domestic migration of 17. Births exceeded deaths by 831. Bingham added 600 people; 166 from net international migration. Births exceeded deaths by 435. Jefferson County added 423 in population; 31 from net domestic migration and 96 from net international migration. Births exceeded deaths by 224. Teton County added 420 in population; 203 from net domestic migration and 40 from net international migration. Births exceeded deaths by 76. Teton and Jefferson Counties were the only counties to show gains in net domestic migration over the time period. Fremont showed a gain of 3 in population. Births exceeded deaths by 127.

Decreases were seen in the remaining counties, more notably in Lemhi and Madison Counties at 200 and 140, respectively. Lemhi County experienced mining layoffs/closures and destructive fires during the time period, but economic development remains a concentrated effort in the county as it continues to see new businesses opening and expanding. Madison County continues to be difficult to count with student turnover and constant movement in the university sector. Although the county shows a decline in the numbers, much of that can be attributed to net domestic migration that showed a decrease of 533. This would imply that some county residents have moved from the county for a myriad of reasons while net international migration showed a gain of 34. As noted, births greatly exceeded deaths by almost 400. Madison County is seeing economic growth and movement as it stays devoted to economic development.

Butte County showed a decrease in population of 43, mostly from net domestic migration. Births exceeded deaths by 9. Clark County showed a population decrease of 51 with net domestic migration bringing the numbers down. Births exceeded deaths by 10. And lastly, Custer County showed a population decrease of 50; again net domestic migration played the part. Births exceeded deaths by 9.

Although the numbers are indicators of movement in the area, it is important to note that many variables play a part. Those counties concentrated in economic development don't necessarily show positive numbers, but the numbers could be a lot worse without this effort. Rural areas are taking advantage of many incentives and training throughout the state to help their communities grow to be a lasting part of Idaho's economy. Their efforts are noticeable and making a difference for many people in the community who have vowed to stay and be part of the changes. Many changes will yet be seen as the LMA and Northeast Idaho area continue to valiantly push forward for the good of the state.

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